



CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE COST ESTIMATE

May 5, 2003

H.R. 766

Nanotechnology Research and Development Act of 2003

As ordered reported by the House Committee on Science on May 1, 2003

SUMMARY

H.R. 766 would authorize appropriations for fiscal years 2004 through 2006 for various nanotechnology initiatives at five agencies: the National Science Foundation (NSF), Department of Energy, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, National Institute of Standards and Technology, and Environmental Protection Agency. These programs, which involve technologies that manipulate matter at the atomic level, would be overseen by both external and intergovernmental committees. The bill also would direct the Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) to fund several studies by the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) over the next 10 years.

Assuming appropriation of the authorized amounts, CBO estimates that implementing this bill would cost a total of \$1.9 billion over the 2004-2008 period. CBO estimates that enacting this bill would have no effect on direct spending or revenues.

H.R. 766 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act (UMRA) and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

ESTIMATED COST TO THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

The estimated budgetary impact of H.R. 766 is shown in the following table. The costs of this legislation fall within budget functions 250 (general science, space, and technology), 300 (natural resources and the environment), and 376 (commerce and housing credit).

	By Fiscal Year, in Millions of Dollars					
	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
SPENDING SUBJECT TO APPROPRIATION						
Spending Under Current Law						
Estimated Authorization Level ^a	497	350	0	0	0	0
Estimated Outlays	412	350	233	89	26	7
Proposed Changes						
Estimated Authorization Level	0	364	785	865	1	1
Estimated Outlays	0	200	450	686	465	130
Spending Under H.R. 766						
Estimated Authorization Level	497	714	785	865	1	1
Estimated Outlays	412	550	683	775	491	137

a. The 2003 level reflects agencies' estimates of the amount appropriated for nanotechnology programs that year. The 2004 level is the amount authorized to be appropriated for NSF's nanotechnology program under current law.

BASIS OF ESTIMATE

For this estimate, CBO assumes that the amounts authorized will be appropriated each year and that outlays will occur at rates similar to those of existing research and development programs. H.R. 766 would specify funding levels for each of the agencies, totaling \$713 million in 2004, \$785 million in 2005, and \$864 million in 2006. (The \$350 million specified for NSF's program for 2004 is not included in the table as a proposed change because that amount has already been authorized under current law.) The amounts specified in the bill would not cover costs associated with the external advisory functions and studies. Based on information from OSTP and NAS, CBO estimates that those activities would cost an average of about \$700,000 annually.

INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND PRIVATE-SECTOR IMPACT

H.R. 766 contains no intergovernmental or private-sector mandates as defined in UMRA and would impose no costs on state, local, or tribal governments.

ESTIMATE PREPARED BY:

Federal Costs: Kathleen Gramp

Impact on State, Local, and Tribal Governments: Greg Waring

Impact on the Private Sector: Jean Talarico

ESTIMATE APPROVED BY:

Peter H. Fontaine

Deputy Assistant Director for Budget Analysis